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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67

Twenty-second report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered an advance version of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67 on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.5/68/19). During its consideration of the statement, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General on 12 December, who provided additional information and clarifications, concluding with responses received in writing on the same day.

2. Draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67 refers to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want" (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), which included a call to convene a third international conference on small island developing States in 2014. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 14, 15 and 20 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

Please recycle

(a) Decide that:

(i) The first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference would be held over three days, from 24 to 26 February 2014, to discuss the objectives and substantive theme of the Conference and organizational and procedural matters, including the rules of procedure, and to elect the Bureau;

(ii) The final meeting of the Preparatory Committee would be held over five days, from 23 to 27 June 2014, to finalize the preparatory work for the Conference, including the outcome document;

(b) Also decide that all meetings of the Preparatory Committee would be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York;

(c) Decide that the Conference should be organized in accordance with the organization of work set forth in annex II to the resolution, namely, that:

(i) The Conference would consist of an opening and a closing and a total of six plenary meetings;

(ii) The Conference would include six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, held in parallel with the plenary meetings.

3. The statement submitted by the Secretary-General includes information with respect to the following: (a) the relationship of the requests to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2014-2015 (A/67/6/Rev.1) and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (ibid., para. 3); and (b) the activities by which the requests would be implemented (ibid., paras. 4-9).

4. The table contained in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's statement provides a summary of the total estimated additional requirements, amounting to $762,600 for 2014, under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

5. The Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that the six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues would be held in Samoa in parallel with the plenary meeting of the Conference. The Committee was further informed that consultations with the Government of Samoa on the preparations for the Conference had commenced; a delegation from the United Nations Secretariat, headed by the Secretary-General of the Conference, undertook the first planning mission for the Conference in April 2013, and a second planning mission is scheduled for January 2014.

6. Concerning support for the preparations for the Conference, the Advisory Committee was informed, upon enquiry, that pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/207, voluntary contributions have been sought to the trust fund in support of preparations for the Conference and for the participation of developing countries in the regional and international preparatory processes and the Conference itself.

7. The Advisory Committee was further informed, upon enquiry, of the budgeted and proposed costs, respectively, for the second and third conferences on small island developing States (see table below).

Cost comparisons for the second and third conferences on small island developing States

	Second conference, 2005		*Third conference, 2014*	
	Conference services	*Cost (United States dollars)*	*Conference services*	*Cost (United States dollars)*
Preparatory Committee[a]				
Interpretation	–		16 meetings	
Pre-session documentation	–		56 pages	
In-session documentation	–		26 pages	
Post-session documentation	–		32 pages	
Conference				
Interpretation	28 meetings		8 meetings	
Pre-session documentation	160 pages		51 pages	
In-session documentation	80 pages		26 pages	
Post-session documentation	32 pages		32 pages	
Multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues				
Interpretation	–		6 meetings	
Subtotals				
Interpretation	28 meetings	278 800	30 meetings	334 200
Pre-session documentation	160 pages	277 800	107 pages	202 800
In-session documentation	80 pages	135 700	52 pages	101 200
Post-session documentation	32 pages	55 600	64 pages	124 400
Total		**747 900**		**762 600**

[a] The Commission on Sustainable Development acted as the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 meeting and therefore there were no additional resource requirements.

8. **The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67, additional resources in the amount of $762,600 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015. This would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriation for the biennium.**